

**Proposed Management  
of the  
CALFED Conveyance Program  
by the  
California Department of Water Resources  
and the  
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation**

**December 1, 2000**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Attachment 3 (Implementation MOU) of the Programmatic Record of Decision issued for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program on August 28, 2000 specifies that the California Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation shall co-manage the implementation of the Conveyance Program. The ROD further specifies that DWR and Reclamation shall report to the CALFED Policy Group by December 1, 2000 on the recommended distribution of responsibilities between their two agencies.

Reclamation and DWR staff met in October and November to define their agency's responsibilities for co-managing the Conveyance Program and compose this recommendation. It has been reviewed by CALFED staff and agency representatives and approved by the Federal/State Management Group.

The recommendation contains a management summary of each project mentioned in the ROD as part of the Conveyance Program. The projects are either directly related to the Conveyance Program or are defined as complementary actions. All but the last two summaries include a short description of the project, how it will be managed and coordinated, the study process and/or status, the authority of the designated primary management agency, and the milestones contained in the ROD for the project. It is the intent of DWR and Reclamation to manage each project to meet the ROD milestones. Their ability to do so is dependent upon adequate funding and, for Reclamation, receiving Congressional authorization to proceed with certain projects.

As co-managers of the Conveyance Program, both agencies fully understand the importance of coordinating the program activities with all of the agencies participating in implementation of the CALFED Program. In addition, DWR and Reclamation will work closely with CALFED Program staff to assure they receive all necessary information to oversee and coordinate program activities. Key policies such as public involvement, environmental justice, and tribal involvement will be incorporated into the management of the Conveyance Program as appropriate. The conclusions and recommendations from the studies conducted for each project are to be reviewed by a team established by the CALFED Science Program. Comments of the Science Program review team will be incorporated into final project reports.

Management of the Conveyance Program will adhere to the following directives:

1. To work closely with CALFED Science Program staff to develop and incorporate adaptive management strategies into the projects' plans of implementation;
2. To conduct an environmental planning process in accordance with the tools and guidance set forth in the Permit Clearinghouse MOU and the Implementation MOU;

3. To assist CALFED staff in the support of the comprehensive reporting system by providing the necessary information on the status of the schedule, expenditures, and meeting objectives;
4. To utilize existing interagency groups to resolve issues on a continuous basis (such as the South Delta Improvements Team, the North Delta Improvements Team and the Delta Cross Channel/ Through Delta Facility Team);
5. To manage projects to meet the milestone dates contained in the Programmatic Record of Decision for the CALFED Program; and
6. To assess the relationship of individual projects to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Comprehensive Study and coordinate appropriately.

Table 1 lists the Conveyance Program projects and the lead management agency or agencies as recommended in this report.

# TABLE 1

## **CONVEYANCE PROGRAM PROJECTS AND LEAD AGENCY/AGENCIES**

### **CONVEYANCE PROJECTS**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>LEAD AGENCY/AGENCIES</u>
A. South Delta Improvements Program	DWR
B. Tracy Fish Facility	Reclamation
C. Lower San Joaquin River Floodway Improvements	To be determined
D. Delta Cross Channel Re-operation	Reclamation
E. Screened Through-Delta Facility Evaluation	DWR
F. North Delta Floodway Improvements	DWR
G. Aqueduct Intertie	Reclamation (assuming authorization received)
H. Clifton Court/Tracy Pumping Plant Intertie	DWR

### **COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS**

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>LEAD AGENCY/AGENCIES</u>
A. Temporary Barriers Program	DWR
B. South Delta Local Protections	DWR
C. San Felipe Bypass	SCVWD/DWR
D. East San Joaquin Valley/ So. California Exchange	**
E. Sacramento and San Joaquin Comprehensive Study	DWR/Corps

\*\* The East San Joaquin Valley/South California Exchange will be managed under the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program.

## CONVEYANCE PROGRAM PROJECTS

### **A. Implement the South Delta Improvements Program**

#### General Description of Project

The South Delta Improvements Program includes the following components identified as part of CALFED's Conveyance Program: (1) increase SWP pumping capability to 8,500 cfs from March 15 to December 15 and modify existing pumping criteria from December 15 to March 15 to allow for greater use of SWP export capacity, (2) design and construct new fish screens at Clifton Court Forebay to allow full export capability more regularly, and (3) dredge and install operable barriers to ensure water of adequate quantity and quality to agricultural diverters in the south Delta.

#### Project Management

The program will be managed by DWR with Reclamation providing staff support.

#### Project Coordination

The scope of the study and its results will be coordinated with other CALFED agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USEPA, USFWS, NMFS, DFG and the State Water Resources Control Board. Close coordination with CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program is required since the environmental baseline for the Delta needs improvement before USFWS will issue a biological opinion and DFG can make a finding that species would be adequately conserved with implementation of the project. An interagency team (Clifton Court Forebay Technical Advisory Team (CCFTAT) comprised of staff from CALFED, DWR, Reclamation, Fish and Game, USFWS, NMFS and stakeholders meets on a regular basis to develop a preferred design approach, facility specifications and testing procedures for the fish screens at Clifton Court Forebay.

#### Study Process/Status

A joint EIR/S is being prepared by DWR. DWR is also preparing a 404(b)(1) Analysis for the Corps. An interagency team (South Delta Improvements Team) comprised of staff from CALFED, DWR, Reclamation, DFG, the Corps, USFWS and NMFS meets on a regular basis to resolve technical and policy issues related to the preparation of the EIR/S

#### Authority

DWR has assumed the lead in preparing the EIR for the project under its authority to mitigate the effects of State Water Project diversions upon agricultural diversions in the southern Delta. Reclamation will be the lead agency to prepare the EIS.

### ROD Milestone Dates

- Complete Final EIR/S at the end of 2002
- Begin construction in mid 2005
- Complete construction by end 2007.

## **B. Design and construct new fish screens at Tracy Pumping Plant**

### General Description of Project

This project would be implemented in two phases: (1) pursue construction and evaluation of a 500 cfs Tracy Fish Test Facility (TFTF) to develop the best available fish screening and salvage technology for the intakes to the SWP and CVP export facilities, and (2) improve the TFTF until a decision is made to retain a separate CVP intake facility or to consolidate with the SWP facility.

### Project Management

The project is managed by Reclamation.

### Project Coordination

All project studies will be closely coordinated with DWR, USFWS, NMFS and DFG.

### Study Process/Status

Reclamation is preparing the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for the TFTF. Preliminary and final design of the fish facilities will be done by Reclamation. Currently, Reclamation is working with other CALFED agencies to develop a preferred design approach, facility specifications, and is continuing to incorporate input from participating agencies. An interagency team (the Tracy Technical Advisory Team) comprised of staff from CALFED, DWR, Reclamation, Fish and Game, USFWS, NMFS and stakeholders meets on a regular basis to develop a preferred design approach, facility specifications and testing priority.

### Authority

Reclamation is authorized to construct the fish facilities through the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

### ROD Milestone Dates

- Complete facilities design in early 2001
- Begin construction by middle of 2001
- Begin operations and testing in early 2003

## **C. Lower San Joaquin River Floodway Improvements**

### General Description of Project

The project is to improve flood control capacity on the lower San Joaquin River and enhance ecosystem structure and function in the lower San Joaquin River and south Delta areas. A more specific project description has not been developed at this time. DWR and Reclamation will meet and confer with other CALFED agencies, including the Corps, to more clearly define the nature of the action and report back to the CALFED Policy Group on the recommended approach for managing the project.

### Project Management

The project manager is not identified at this time.

### Project Coordination

The scope of actions undertaken in this program will be coordinated with other regulatory agencies including the USFWS, NMFS, USEPA, DFG, Corps and the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

### Study Process/Status

A project-specific EIR/S, which tiers off of the CALFED Programmatic EIR/S, is expected to be required. Project studies would be initiated after the CALFED Policy Group approves a management structure for the project.

### Authority

Not determined at this time.

### ROD Milestone Dates

- Complete environmental studies in early 2003
- Complete project design and funding plan in early 2004
- Begin construction by the middle of 2005.

## **D. Evaluate and implement improved operational procedures for the Delta Cross Channel**

### General Description of Project

This project includes initial steps to provide information on the effects of re-operating the Delta Cross Channel facility to protect fisheries and Delta water quality. As information is collected over a three-year period, operational plans will be developed and further studies will be conducted. At the end of three years, a team of engineers and biologists will make a recommendation to CALFED as to whether re-operation can achieve the fishery benefits and drinking water quality goals CALFED has set and/or additional cross-Delta conveyance facilities are needed.

### Project Management

Reclamation staff will manage this project in coordination with the CALFED Operations Group.

### Project Coordination

Reclamation will lead the coordination with CALFED agencies, including USEPA, NMFS, USFWS, USBR, DFG, and DWR. The Delta Cross-Channel/Through-Delta Facility (DCCTDF) Team will continue to provide oversight and coordination for this activity. Delta simulation modeling will be conducted by Reclamation under the guidance of CALFED.

### Study Process/Status

Delta simulation modeling will be completed to evaluate the effects on Delta hydrodynamics and water quality of various Delta Cross Channel operation strategies. Further study and development of an EIR/S should be pursued at the earliest possible date once study results have identified viable alternatives.

### Authority

Reclamation has the authority to manage the project through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

### ROD Milestone Dates

- Begin operational studies by October 2000
- Complete studies and make specific recommendations by the end of 2003

**E. Evaluate a screened through-Delta facility on the Sacramento River up to 4,000 cfs**

General Description of Project

Complete a thorough evaluation of the technical viability of a screened through-Delta facility. The historic emphasis has been on a screened diversion at Hood. Potential sites to be considered as part of this evaluation are between, and include, Hood and Georgiana Slough.

The technical evaluation is to be completed by the end of 2003. CALFED will then make a decision as to whether it is appropriate to begin preparation of the project-specific EIR/EIS for the through-Delta facility. The decision to proceed with preparation of the project-specific EIR/EIS for the through-Delta facility would only be made if: (1) a thorough assessment of the potential for re-operation of the Delta cross-channel concludes it is not possible to re-operate the cross-channel to meet target Delta drinking water quality goals, (2) the evaluation of the technical viability of a through-Delta facility concludes that it is viable, and (3) Delta fishery concerns about the through-Delta facility have been resolved satisfactorily.

Project Management

DWR will manage the project. Reclamation will provide staff support for the study.

Project Coordination

The scope of the project study and its results will be coordinated with other CALFED agencies including the USEPA, Corps, USFWS, NMFS, DFG and the SWRCB. The DCCTDF Team will continue to provide oversight and coordination for this activity.

Study Process/Status

Preparation of the project-specific EIR/S for the screened Through-Delta Facility would begin at the direction and discretion of the CALFED Policy Group. It is expected that DWR would be the lead State agency for the EIR. The lead Federal agency for the EIS has not been identified at this time. The EIR/S would be prepared in coordination with DFG, USFWS, NMFS, SWRCB, EPA, and Corps of Engineers.

Authority

DWR is authorized to conduct this study based on its overall responsibility for ensuring that the water resources of the State of California are developed and used for the greatest benefit of the State's population, natural resources and economy. The facility would help

to protect and improve the water quality of SWP and CVP water deliveries made from the Delta.

ROD Milestone Dates

- Develop specific study plan, fund and begin studies by October 2000
- Complete water quality and fish effect studies and develop recommendations at end of 2003
- Complete environmental review. If facility is necessary and fish protection conditions are met, seek funding and authority to begin construction by the end of 2007.

## **F. Design and construct North Delta floodway improvements to provide conveyance, flood control and ecosystem benefits**

### General Description of Project

This project is intended to resolve flood concerns and create tidal wetlands and riparian habitats. During project formulation, an evaluation will coordinate joint goals of ecosystem restoration, regional flood control, levee system integrity and conveyance enhancement to ensure that a balanced solution for all goals is implemented.

### Project Management

The project will be managed by DWR.

### Project Coordination

The project study is being coordinated with stakeholders through the North Delta Improvements Team. Coordination of environmental issues with CALFED agencies is accomplished through the North Delta Agency Team. The Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed Alliance meets on a regular basis to coordinate all flood control and ecosystem restoration projects planned in the watershed to ensure that these projects function efficiently as a system.

### Study Process/Status

CALFED staff has been meeting with stakeholders to define the project purpose and need, define significant project issues and begin the formulation of alternatives. A project-specific joint EIR/S is to be prepared prior to the implementation of the proposed actions. The lead Federal agency for the EIS will be identified at a later date. The EIR would be prepared by DWR in coordination with DFG, USFWS, NMFS, Reclamation and the Corps. Private consultants may also be utilized to prepare the EIR/S through contractual arrangements. The preferred alternative will be consistent with CALFED's through-Delta conveyance strategy and other actions to be implemented through the joint DWR-Corps Comprehensive Study.

### Authority

DWR is authorized to conduct this study based on its overall responsibilities to provide for flood control, public safety, and fish and wildlife protection in the Delta and Central Valley.

### ROD Milestone Dates

- Complete environmental studies by early 2003
- Complete project design and funding plan by early 2004
- Make decision whether to seek funding and the authority to begin construction by the middle of 2005.

## **G. Construct an intertie between the Delta-Mendota Canal and the California Aqueduct**

### General Description of Project

This project is to assess the engineering, environmental and economic feasibility of constructing an intertie between the Delta-Mendota Canal and the California Aqueduct to optimize the efficiency and reliability of water supply delivery capability for both water projects. The project study will evaluate a possible intertie between the project aqueducts downstream of the export pumps and determine the effects of intertie operation on SWP and CVP delivery capability, water quality and the ecosystem. The project study will also evaluate costs/benefits of the intertie and the effects of the intertie on the operations of CVP/SWP export facilities and other institutional arrangements.

### Project Management

The project manager has not been identified at this time. The primary beneficiary of the project is Reclamation and the CVP water users south of the Delta. Reclamation, however, does not have the authorization to manage the project. In addition, a funding source for this work must be identified. DWR and Reclamation will meet to discuss the approach they will take to meet the milestone dates for the project.

### Project Coordination

Agency and stakeholder coordination occurs via the South Delta Improvement Team. Participants in the team include representatives of CALFED, DWR, USBR, CDFG, USFWS, NMFS, and the Corps.

### Study Process/Status

A project-specific EIR/S for the intertie will be prepared. The document will tier off of the CALFED Programmatic EIR/S.

### Authority

Reclamation is authorized under the Reclamation Act of 1902 and CVPIA Section 3408(j) to conduct pre-feasibility level investigations. Reclamation will lead the pre-feasibility studies and will seek feasibility authority based on the outcome of those investigations; or CALFED authorization could provide overall blanket authority for this activity. DWR is authorized to conduct this study based upon its over-arching responsibility of ensuring the water resources of the State are developed and used for the greatest benefit of the State's population, natural resources, and economy.

### ROD Milestone Dates

- Complete environmental review, project design and funding plan by middle of 2004
- Make decision whether to seek funding and authority to begin construction by end of 2004

## **H. Assess connection of the CVP to the SWP's Clifton Court Forebay**

### General Description of Project

Reclamation and DWR staff will jointly evaluate the environmental, engineering and economic feasibility of constructing facilities to allow the CVP's Tracy Pumping Plant to divert water directly from the SWP's Clifton Court Forebay. This component of CALFED's Conveyance Program would accomplish the following: (1) allow water project operators to take advantage of fluctuations in Delta water quality at the project intake locations to deliver better quality water to either project's canal and, (2) provide for uninterrupted CVP water supplies when there are significant populations of sensitive fish species at or near the intake to the Tracy Pumping Plant.

### Project Management

DWR will manage the project with Reclamation providing staff support.

### Project Coordination

DWR will conduct the project study in coordination with other CALFED agencies, including NMFS, USFWS, USBR, Corps, and DFG. Operations studies and Delta simulation modeling will be conducted by DWR. The preliminary design of the study will be performed by DWR and reviewed by Reclamation. Operational issues pertaining to the CCF/TPP intertie will be coordinated with project operators of the SWP and CVP.

### Study Process/Status

The project study is a feasibility evaluation. If the initial evaluation indicates that the CCF/TPP intertie is economically viable, the decision to proceed with preparation of the project-specific environmental studies shall be made in consultation with CALFED. The CALFED Management Group and Policy Group will review the assumptions for the operation of the intertie and for the studies evaluating its feasibility.

### Authority

DWR is authorized to conduct this study based on its overall responsibilities for ensuring that the water resources of the State of California are developed and used for the greatest benefit of the State's population, natural resources and economy.

### ROD Milestone Dates

- None specified in ROD

## Complementary Actions

### **A. Install and operate temporary barriers in the south Delta until fully operable barriers are implemented.**

#### General Description of Project

The project is to implement the temporary barriers until permanent, operable barriers are constructed. The action requires obtaining a Section 404 permit from the Corps, a 1603 Agreement and 2081 permit from DFG, right of entry permits from local landowners, and reaching agreement with the South Delta Water Agency on the process to install, operate and remove the Head of Old River barrier. The permits should address temporary barrier operation from 2001 through 2007, at which time all of the permanent operable barriers are to be completed.

#### Project Management

The project will be managed by DWR.

#### Project Coordination

The scope of the study and its results will be coordinated with other CALFED agencies including the Corps, USFWS, NMFS, DFG and the SWRCB.

#### Study Process/Status

An Initial Study and Biological Assessment will be prepared by DWR and submitted as part of the permit applications to the Corps and DFG. Endangered Species Act consultation with USFWS, NMFS and DFG will be initiated. DWR will coordinate with local landowners and the South Delta Water Agency to obtain permit and agreements needed to allow for barrier installation and removal.

#### Authority

DWR is authorized to conduct the Temporary Barriers Program to mitigate any effects of water project diversions upon agricultural diversions in the southern Delta.

#### ROD Milestone Dates

- Ongoing work, beginning in FY 2000-2001

**B. Take actions to protect navigation and protect local diverters not adequately protected by the Temporary Barriers Program**

General Description of Project

The project consists of doing one or more of the following: (1) install portable pumps to supplement existing diversion intake operation; (2) conduct limited dredging to improve channel depth and conveyance capacity; (3) repair or replace existing diversions/siphons to ensure that agricultural diverters are made whole from water project and barrier operations. The project is necessary because there are some areas of the south Delta where operation of the barriers does not improve water level conditions. For areas directly downstream of the barriers, water level conditions are actually adversely affected by barrier operation. The primary study area for this activity is along the northeast and southeast part of Union Island, the northeast part of Fabian Tract, and Coney Island. Since these areas do not benefit from barrier operation, the project must be implemented to ensure that navigation and diversion capabilities are protected.

Project Management

DWR manages the project with Reclamation providing staff support.

Project Coordination

The scope of actions undertaken in this project will be coordinated with other CALFED agencies including the Corps, USFWS, NMFS, DFG and the SWRCB.

Study Process/Status

No permits are needed for installation and operation of portable pumps. Dredging and/or diversion modification may require separate or nationwide permits from Corps and DFG. In both cases, ESA consultation is required since the project area is designated as critical habitat.

Authority

DWR has authorized to undertake this activity to mitigate any effects of water project diversions and barrier operations upon agricultural diversions and local boaters in the southern Delta.

ROD Milestone Dates

- Ongoing, as needed, beginning in FY 2000-2001

## **C. Construct a Bypass Canal to the San Felipe Unit at the San Luis Reservoir**

### General Description of the Project

The project is to conduct an engineering, environmental and economic evaluation of alternative means by which Santa Clara Valley Water District could receive water directly from the Delta-Mendota Canal, thereby avoiding water quality problems associated with the “low point” water levels in San Luis Reservoir.

### Project Management

SCVWD will manage the project. Appraisal studies of the bypass and related expansion of local storage will be funded through Proposition 13, which is managed by DWR.

### Project Coordination

SCVWD will maintain close coordination with Reclamation and DWR, providing and updating a program schedule with sufficient detail to track the work and include interim milestones for each major component. In addition, coordination will be emphasized during the evaluation of SWP/CVP operations and water supply effects.

### Study Process/Status

An Appraisal Study will be initially undertaken to determine if there are any potential feasible alternatives. If a potentially feasible alternative exists, extensive technical work and preparation of a project-specific EIR/S would be required. The project-specific EIR/S would tier off the CALFED Programmatic EIR/S. SCVWD would be the lead agency for the EIR. The lead Federal agency for the EIS has not been identified at this time. A cost-sharing agreement would also be required as part of a CALFED program implementation decision.

### Authority

Reclamation law requires specific authorizations to undertake feasibility studies and authority does not exist at this time. Until such time as authorization is provided, Reclamation will limit its participation to providing technical assistance to Santa Clara under the Reclamation Act of 1902. DWR will assure SCVWD fulfills the required funding contract conditions.

### ROD Milestone Dates

- Complete environmental review and preliminary design by the end of 2003
- Obtain necessary authorization and funding and begin construction by end of 2004

**D. Facilitate water quality exchanges and similar programs to make high quality Sierra Nevada water in the east San Joaquin Valley available to urban Southern California interests**

General Description of the Project

The project is listed as a complementary action in the ROD under both the Conveyance and the Drinking Water Quality Programs.

Project Management

This project is not being managed under the Conveyance Program. It is being managed under the CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program.

**E. Sacramento and San Joaquin Comprehensive Study**

General Description of the Project

Directs project managers to assess the relationship of their specific project to the Comprehensive Study and coordinate activities appropriately.